THE ACHIEVEMENT INDEX AND THE WASHINGTON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS – AN OVERVIEW

In 2009, the Washington State Board of Education (SBE) introduced the Achievement Index, a database that provides a clear and comprehensive analysis of Washington schools' performance. SBE and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) utilize the Achievement Index to celebrate our state's top-performing schools through the Washington Achievement Awards.

Schools are acknowledged in the following categories:

- Overall Excellence
- Special Recognition Awards in the following areas:
  - Language Arts
  - Math
  - Science
  - Extended Graduation Rate
  - Improvement
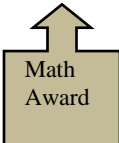 - Closing Achievement Gaps (Race/Ethnicity Gap and Income Gap)

Award winners are recognized for two-year average performance in at least one of the following categories:
a. Overall Excellence
   i. The Overall Excellence Award honors the top 5 percent of elementary, middle/junior, high, and comprehensive schools. Only schools with an achievement gap of less than 2.5 are eligible. Schools that have more than 10 percent gifted student population, and with a two-year average for the peers rating greater than or equal to 6, also receive recognition.
b. Special Recognition Awards
   1. Language Arts – high reading and writing combined performance
   2. Math – high math performance
   3. Science – high science performance
   4. Extended Graduation Rate – high percentage of students who graduate within five or fewer years
   5. Improvement – high rate of improvement from previous year
   6. Closing Achievement Gaps (Race/Ethnicity Gap and Income Gap) –
      1. Race/Ethnicity Gap: Asian and White student performance are compared with other students (Black, Pacific Islander, Native American/Alaska Native, and Hispanic students).
      2. Income Gap: Non low-income student performance is compared with low-income student performance.

Achievement Index: Two-Year Averages

INDICATORS	OUTCOMES					AVERAGE
	Reading	Writing	Math	Science	Ext. Grad Rate	
Achievement of non low-income students						
Achievement of low-income students						
Achievement vs. peers						
Improvement from the previous year						6 or above
Index Scores	6 or above combined reading and writing		6 or above	6 or above	6 or above	Top 5 %

Closing Achievement Gaps

Improvement Award

Language Arts Award
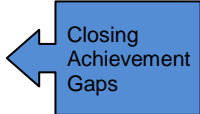
Math Award

Science Award
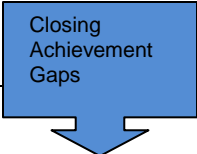
Ext. Grad Rate Award

Overall Excellence

Achievement Gap: School Year 2009-2010										
INDICATORS	Reading			Math			Ext Grad Rate			AVERAGE
	Met Std	Peers	Imp	Met Std	Peers	Imp	Met Std	Peers	Imp	
Achievement of Black, Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic students										Closing Achievement Gaps
Achievement of white and Asian students										
Achievement Gap										0 or negative means gaps are closing

AWARD CRITERIA -DETAILED

☐ Overall Excellence
- Minimum two-year average rating to earn recognition
- Gifted percent is <10 for both years
- Cell count for all 20 ratings must be >=10 for both years
- Top five percent of two-year average Elementary, Middle, High, and Comprehensive schools receives an award
- Two-year average race/ethnicity gap is < 2.5 points
- Two-year average income gap is < 2.5 points

☐ Overall Excellence (Gifted)
- Minimum two-year average rating to earn recognition
- Gifted percent is >=10 for both years
- Cell count for peer rates must be >=2 (out of 5)
- Two-year average for Peers is >=6

☐ Special Recognition (Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Extended Graduation Rate)
- Gifted percent is <10 for both years
- Cell count for each subject and ext grad rate must be >=2 (out of 4)
- Two-year average for each subject and ext grad rate is >=6
- For the Language Arts award, both reading and writing must also have a two-year average >=6, in addition to the Language Arts two-year average >=6

☐ Special Recognition (Improvement)
- Cell count for Improvement rates must be >=2 (out of 5)
- Two-year average for Improvement rate is >=6

☐ Special Recognition (Closing the Achievement Gaps)

Race/ethnicity gap:
- Minority percent is >=20
- Two-year average for both non-minority and minority is >=4.25
- 2010 race/ethnicity Gap <=0
- 2009 race/ethnicity Gap <=0

Income Gap
- Low-income is >=20 percent
- Two-year average for both non low-income and low-income is >=4.25
- 2010 income gap <=0
- 2009 income gap <=0